



BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. 615 214-6301
Suite 2101 Fax 615 214-7406
333 Commerce Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37201-3300

Guy M. Hicks
General Counsel

March 13, 1998

VIA HAND DELIVERY

David Waddell, Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

REC'D TN
REGULATORY AUTH.
MAR 13 PM 11 39
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Re: *BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Entry Into Long Distance
(InterLATA) Service in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996*
Docket No. 97-00309

Dear Mr. Waddell:

The March 6 Order Establishing Format of Technical Workshop on Performance Measures and Standards allowed all parties to provide proposed Performance Measures to the parties and the TRA by 12:00 Noon on March 13, 1998. The Performance Measures proposed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") are set forth in Attachment 1 to the SGAT filed on January 16, 1998.

The Order also allowed for comment by the parties with respect to how or whether the decision of the arbitrators on Issue 3 of the BellSouth/AT&T/MCI consolidated arbitration, Docket Nos. 96-01152 and 96-01271, relates to the § 271 docket on a going-forward basis. Following the AT&T and MCI arbitrations and the selection of best and final provisions by the TRA, BellSouth negotiated performance standards with AT&T. These negotiated standards were submitted to the TRA on March 3 and approved by the TRA on April 29, 1997 as part of the Interconnection Agreement. Subsequently, on September 5, BellSouth and AT&T submitted an amendment to the Interconnection Agreement to the TRA for approval. The amendment incorporated a nine-state agreement reached by BellSouth and AT&T regarding Performance Measures. The amendment was approved by the TRA on November 18, 1997. As required by the decision of the Arbitrators on Issue 3, therefore, the interim performance standards set forth in AT&T's best and final offer have been replaced by "more permanent standards" developed by and agreed upon by the parties.

David Waddell, Executive Secretary
March 13, 1998
Page 2

Moreover, fully consistent with the Arbitrators' decision on Issue 3, the Performance Standards set forth in Attachment 1 to BellSouth's SGAT are in a reporting format that allows a competitor to compare the level of service that it and its customers receive from BellSouth with the level of service that BellSouth provides to itself and to its customers.

In summary, BellSouth's proposed Performance Standards are not only consistent with the standards negotiated with AT&T and the decision of the Arbitrators, but go farther and elaborate upon those standards.

A copy of this letter has been provided to counsel of record in this proceeding.

Very truly yours,



Guy M. Hicks

GMH:ch

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 13, 1998, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via facsimile or hand delivery addressed as follows:

Dennis McNamee, Esquire
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0500

Vincent Williams, Esquire
Consumer Advocate Division
426 5th Avenue, N., 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Dana Shaffer, Esquire
Nextlink
105 Malloy Street, #300
Nashville, TN 37201

Enrico C. Soriano
Kelley, Drye & Warren
1200 19th St., NW, #500
Washington, DC 20036

H. LaDon Baltimore, Esquire
Farrar & Bates
211 Seventh Ave. N, # 320
Nashville, TN 37219-1823

Carolyn Tatum Roddy, Esquire
Sprint Communications
3100 Cumberland Circle, N0802
Atlanta, GA 30339

Charles B. Welch, Esquire
Farris, Mathews, et al.
511 Union Street, #2400
Nashville, TN 37219

Guilford Thornton, Esquire
Stokes & Bartholomew
424 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37219

Henry Walker, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P. O. Box 198062
Nashville, TN 37219-8062

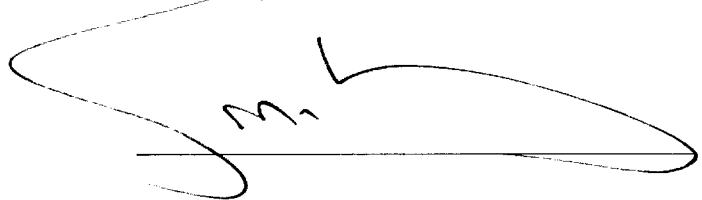
D. Billye Sanders, Esquire
Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis
511 Union St., #2100
Nashville, TN 37219-1750

Jon E. Hastings, Esquire
Boult, Cummings, et al.
P. O. Box 198062
Nashville, TN 37219-8062

Andrew O. Isar, Esquire
Telecommunications Resellers Association
4312 92nd Ave., NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

James P. Lamoureux
AT&T
1200 Peachtree St., NE, #4068
Atlanta, GA 30367

Donald L. Scholes
Branstetter, Kilgore, et al.
227 Second Ave., N.
Nashville, TN 37219

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M. L.', is written over a horizontal line.